

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently amended) An endoscope comprising:
an endoscope shaft having[[:]] proximal and distal ends[[:]] and one or more uninterrupted lumens extending ~~therethrough~~ therethrough;
a non-detachable treatment accessory integrated at the distal end of the shaft, wherein the treatment accessory ~~further~~ comprises a tissue apposition device comprising at least one suction port and at least one needle ~~longitudinally slidable~~ movable through the accessory to penetrate tissue aspirated into the suction port;
a non-detachable housing for the accessory integrated into the endoscope shaft;
one or more accessory control elements extending through the one or more lumens of the endoscope shaft; and
an accessory control mechanism mounted at the proximal end of the endoscope.
3. (Currently amended) ~~An integrated~~ The endoscope as defined in ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein the ~~treatment accessory comprises a tissue apposition device formed as~~ includes a cylindrical cartridge that ~~mounts~~ is integrated over a reduced diameter portion of the endoscope shaft.
4. (Currently amended) ~~An integrated~~ The endoscope as defined in ~~Claim~~ claim 3, wherein the ~~cylindrical cartridge further comprises a side suction port~~ is provided on a side of the cylindrical cartridge and ~~at least one tissue capturing means that is advanced through captured tissue along a circumferential path that rotates about a longitudinal axis of the endoscope.~~
5. (Currently amended) ~~An integrated~~ The endoscope as defined in ~~Claim 4~~ claim 2, wherein the suction port further comprises a partition wall that forces aspirated tissue to form into two separate tissue mounds.

6. (Currently amended) ~~An integrated~~ The endoscope as defined in ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein the ~~treatment accessory~~ tissue apposition device comprises a tissue suturing device having ~~at least one~~ suction port and a vacuum chamber, ~~the needle being~~ and a semi-circular needle configured to be advanced in a circular path that traverses the vacuum chamber and tissue aspirated therein.

7. (Currently amended) ~~An integrated~~ The endoscope as defined in ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein the ~~treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device having at least one suction port and~~ has a vacuum chamber having with a bottom surface, and the treatment accessory further comprising an optical viewing port and air and water port ~~are present~~ located on the bottom surface.

8. (Currently amended) ~~An integrated~~ The endoscope as defined in ~~Claim 7~~ claim 2, wherein the treatment accessory further comprises an optical viewing port and air and water port located at a distal tip of the endoscope accessory.

9. (Currently amended) ~~An integrated~~ The endoscope as defined in ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein the ~~treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device having~~ includes an angulated distal face that is oriented at an acute angle from the longitudinal axis of the endoscope~~[[; a]]~~, ~~the suction port being~~ opened on the distal face to a vacuum chamber having a back wall surface~~[[;]]~~ the needle configured to be advanced so that it traverses the vacuum chamber at an orientation that is parallel to the distal face, the tissue apposition device further comprising an optical viewing port and a vacuum port arranged on the back wall surface of the vacuum chamber; ~~and~~
~~—— a needle configured to be advanced so that it traverses the vacuum chamber at an orientation that is parallel to the distal face.~~

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently amended) A method of performing an endoscopic medical procedure comprising:
providing an endoscope comprising:
an endoscope shaft having ~~[[:]]~~ proximal and distal ends ~~[[:]]~~ and one or more uninterrupted lumens extending ~~therethrough~~ therethrough;
a non-detachable treatment accessory integrated at the distal end of the shaft, wherein the treatment accessory comprises a tissue apposition device comprising at least one suction port and at least one needle ~~longitudinally-slidable~~ movable through the accessory to penetrate tissue aspirated into the suction port;
a non-detachable housing for the accessory integrated into the endoscope shaft;
one or more accessory control elements extending through the one or more lumens of the endoscope shaft; and
an accessory control mechanism mounted at the proximal end of the endoscope;
inserting the distal end of the endoscope into a patient and navigating it to a treatment site carrying out a medical procedure involving manipulation of internal tissues, without introducing a secondary medical device through the endoscope or external to the endoscope, and
withdrawing the endoscope from the patient.
13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, ~~where~~ wherein the tissue apposition device is comprised within a treatment accessory that is integrated into the distal end of the endoscope.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, ~~where~~ wherein the endoscope comprises:
at least one accessory control element extending through the length of the endoscope; and
an accessory control mechanism mounted at the proximal end of the endoscope.
15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the tissue apposition device is ~~formed as~~ includes a cylindrical cartridge that ~~mounts~~ is integrated over a reduced diameter portion of the endoscope shaft.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the ~~eylindrical cartridge further comprises a side suction port~~ is provided on a side of the cylindrical cartridge and at least one tissue capturing means that is advanced through captured tissue along a circumferential path that rotates about a longitudinal axis of the endoscope.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the suction port further comprises a partition wall that forces aspirated tissue to form into two separate tissue mounds.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the tissue apposition device comprises a vacuum chamber, the needle being and a semi-circular needle configured to be advanced in a circular path that traverses the vacuum chamber and tissue aspirated therein.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises a vacuum chamber having a bottom surface and an optical viewing port and an air and water port ~~are present~~ located on the bottom surface.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises an optical viewing port and air and water port located at a distal tip of the endoscope accessory.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the tissue apposition device comprises:

an angulated distal face that is oriented at an acute angle from the longitudinal axis of the endoscope[[]; a]], the suction port opened on the distal face to a vacuum chamber having a back wall surface, the needle configured to be advanced so that it traverses the vacuum chamber at an orientation that is parallel to the distal face; and

an optical viewing port and a vacuum port arranged on the back wall surface of the vacuum chamber and

~~_____ a needle configured to be advanced so that it traverses the vacuum chamber at an orientation that is parallel to the distal face.~~

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (New) The endoscope as defined in claim 2, wherein the needle is longitudinally slidable through the accessory.

25. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the needle is longitudinally slidable through the accessory.